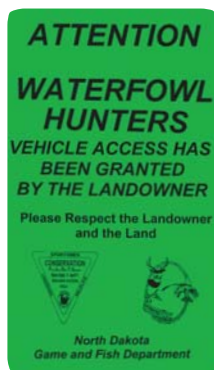


# Conservation PLOTS Rules and Ethics

- **Conservation PLOTS are for hunting only.** Other activities such as target shooting, camping, horseback riding, dog training and trapping are NOT allowed without permission from the landowner.
- State law **prohibits** individuals acting as a hunting guide or outfitter on land owned, or private land enrolled by, the Department for the purpose of hunting, or on land for which the Department pays in lieu of tax payments (PLOTS, CoverLocks, and WMAs).
- **Conservation PLOTS and CoverLocks are open from September 1 – April 1 for WALK-IN HUNTING ONLY.** DO NOT enter property with vehicles. DO NOT open gates and refrain from stretching fences when crossing them.
- **No person may use motorized vehicles on Department Conservation PLOTS property without written permission from the landowner.** Hunters wishing to drive on PLOTS to set out decoys for waterfowl hunting or to retrieve big game must obtain written permission from the landowner.

Waterfowl hunters may drive on harvested crop fields within PLOTS if the area is marked with a sign that reads: ATTENTION WATERFOWL HUNTERS – VEHICLE ACCESS HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE LANDOWNER. The intent of this rule is to allow waterfowl hunters to drive in harvested crop fields to set out decoys.



- **DO NOT LITTER.** Take all your trash when you leave, make an effort to pick up any trash left by others and **pick up your empty shotgun shell hulls or rifle casings.** Leave PLOTS in better condition than when you arrived.
- When field dressing game, properly dispose of animal and bird remains. **DO NOT leave remains in parking areas, along roadsides or in roadside ditches.**
- **Hunt only on Conservation PLOTS property.** Adjacent areas may be closed to hunting. Stay within the boundary of the PLOTS property; know where you are and respect adjoining landowner rights.
- **Standing, unharvested crops on Conservation PLOTS are open to public hunting unless otherwise posted.** In some cases, landowners allow hunting of standing crops on PLOTS. These areas have been included in the PLOTS agreement with permission from the landowner. Some of these areas may be food plots intended for use by wildlife, but others may be agricultural fields intended for harvesting. Even though these areas may be open to hunting, hunters are reminded to make every effort not to cause crop damage. All crop fields included on PLOTS are open to hunting after the crop has been harvested.
- **Non-toxic shot is not required for hunting upland game on PLOTS lands, however, it is required on all lands statewide, including PLOTS, while hunting ducks, geese, tundra swans, sandhill cranes, snipe, mergansers and coot.** The possession or use of



# Conservation PLOTS Rules and Ethics

any shot other than federally-approved non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting the above mentioned species.

- Make sure the land you are entering is posted with CONSERVATION PLOTS – WALKING ACCESS ONLY signs as shown in the photos in this guide. If you have questions on specific tracts, please check with the Department.
- Obey all North Dakota hunting regulations. See current proclamations for all hunting regulations.
- For information about hunting on Indian Reservations, contact the appropriate tribal office:

- **Fort Berthold, Game and Fish Department**  
HC 3 Box 2  
New Town, ND 58763  
701-627-4760
- **Standing Rock, Game and Fish Department**  
Box D  
Fort Yates, ND 58538  
701-854-7236
- **Turtle Mountain, Department of Natural Resources**  
Box 570  
Belcourt, ND 58316  
701-477-2600
- **Spirit Lake, Fish and Wildlife Department**  
Box 359  
Fort Totten, ND 58335  
701-766-4221

- Some Conservation PLOTS may be marked with signs indicating: NO SHOOTING TOWARD BUILDINGS. Use extra caution when hunting these particular areas. It is recommended that hunters hunt away from the buildings. Always keep a buffer around

buildings and livestock. Know your target, and what is beyond your target, especially when using a rifle.

- **Practice safe and ethical conduct.** As a hunter, you should know that non hunters observe your conduct. Ethical conduct on your part will help ensure the future of hunting. The actions of irresponsible “slob hunters” affect the image of all hunters. Respect others while hunting, know all game laws and practice safe hunting. Make every effort to portray hunters as responsible citizens.



*Photo by Craig Bibrle*

- **It is important for hunters to realize their actions in the field can determine landowners willingness to enter into PLOTS.** If hunters abuse their privileges, litter, overcrowd, drive off-trail, tear down fences, leave gates open, shoot up signs or act irresponsibly on PLOTS, a landowner may withdraw from the program. Unfortunately, poor behavior from hunters has a ripple effect in rural North Dakota. The old saying, “It only takes one bad apple,” stands true for hunters and their actions. If you witness someone violating the law, please contact a local game warden in that area. **Please respect PLOTS as if they were your own; this is your hunting license money at work.**

